

# **Office of Environmental Assessment**

## **Five Year Strategic Plan**

**July, 2008 – June, 2013**

**Agency Number:** 13-853  
**Program:** Environmental Assessment  
**Program Authorization:** La. R.S. 30:2011(C)(1)(b)

### **Vision**

The Environmental Assessment Program will protect human health and the environment through effective planning, fair regulations and thoughtful thorough assessment of environmental conditions of land, water and air. Assessment activities will define environmental problems and direct the efficient and effective uses to resources through planning to analyze, reclaim, improve and protect the environment of Louisiana.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Environmental Assessment Program is to maintain and enhance the environment of the state in order to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Louisiana. This program provides an efficient means to develop, implement and enforce regulations, inventory, monitor and analyze emissions, pursue efforts to prevent and to remediate contamination of the environment. This program pursues a unified approach to remediation, simplifies and clarifies the scope of the remediation process, increases protection of human health and the environment by addressing remediation consistently, allows for fast track remediation, where applicable, reduces review time and labor, increases responsiveness to the public and regulatee, and increases accountability.

### **Philosophy**

The philosophy of the Environmental Assessment Program is to apply the best science and technology to analyze and define environmental problems and to apply effective regulatory and remediation solutions in a fair, honest and consistent manner.

### **Goal**

Improve the state of environmental protection through effective planning, evaluation and monitoring of the environment.

**Objective 1:**

The Environmental Assessment Program, through water quality assessment activities, will make available to the citizens of the state all mercury fish tissue sampling results by posting on the DEQ website 95% of verified mercury fish tissue sampling results and 95% of official fish consumption advisories within 30 days after concurrence with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2013.

**Strategies:**

- 1.1 Review 95% of the environmental data for water to define environmental problems and facilitate planning activities to develop regulatory and pollution control strategies to meet time schedules and requirements of the Clean Water Act.
- 1.2 Accomplish water quality assessment as required under Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (The Integrated Report) by compiling and assessing technical data on all water bodies in order to determine possible water quality impairment. A list of impaired water bodies, the 303(d) list, is then developed to show where Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) need to be established and incorporated into the Water Quality Management Plan (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.4).
- 1.3 Accomplish Nonpoint Source management updates as required under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act by implementing demonstration projects for Best Management Practices.
- 1.4 Continue to develop Water Quality Standards by maintaining or revising criteria as needed to protect the designated uses of waters of the State (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.3).
- 1.5 Report and post mercury fish tissue sample results and subsequent advisories, when needed, on the DEQ website, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.
- 1.6 Report and post swimming advisories as needed in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

**Performance Indicators**

- Efficiency: Percent of verified mercury fish sampling results posted within 30 days on DEQ website
- Efficiency: Percent of official fish consumption advisories posted within 30 days on DEQ website
- Output: Number of watershed management plans developed
- Output: Number of fish consumption advisories
- Output: Number of swimming advisories

Output: Assessment Cycle One: Total Number of subsegments with swimmable use  
Output: Assessment Cycle One: Total Number of subsegments with fishable use  
Output: Assessment Cycle Two: Total Number of subsegments with swimmable use  
Output: Assessment Cycle Two: Total Number of subsegments with fishable use

## **Objective 2:**

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the air quality assessment activity, will perform statewide air monitoring activities to evaluate whether Louisiana has achieved and maintained compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and will achieve a 90% data capture rate for use in determining compliance with the Federal standards for the period FY 2008-2013.

## **Strategies:**

- 2.1 Initiate the promulgation of emission control regulations to attain the standards through the State Implementation Plan.
- 2.2 Design, implement and maintain the statewide ambient air quality network.
- 2.3 Evaluate the air monitoring data for trends and compliance with national and state air quality standards.
- 2.4 Maintain information on current standards to be used as a baseline for future environmental indicator processing (i.e. 1-hour average criteria).(Vision 2020: 3.8.1)
- 2.5 Provide requisite monitoring data for appropriate EPA databases.

## **Performance Indicator**

Effectiveness: Percent data capture from ambient monitoring equipment measuring criteria pollutants

Input: Total number of monitors operating in the network  
Output: Average number of days data capture for ozone  
Average number of days data capture for NO<sub>x</sub>  
Average number of days data capture for SO<sub>2</sub>  
Average number of days data capture for CO

**Objective 3:**

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the air quality assessment activity, will maintain an updated statewide inventory of air emissions, assess trends in emissions with special attention to areas not meeting standards, and ensure that the emissions inventory data is available to the public via the website 95% of the time.

**Strategies:**

- 3.1 Operate and maintain the criteria and toxic air pollutant inventory system.
- 3.2 Annually validate ambient air toxic data for use in determining compliance with standards and reporting emissions to EPA and the public.
- 3.3 Complete any inventory (point, area, non-road mobile, on-road mobile or biogenics) necessary to address the Baton Rouge ozone non-attainment area or for any other special purpose.

**Performance Indicator**

- Outcome: Percentage of days in the year when the emissions inventory system is available to the public
- Millions of pounds of reported toxic emissions to air from industrial sources (TEDI)
- Percent reduction in reported toxic emissions to air from industrial sources from 1991 adjusted baseline (TEDI)

**Objective 4:**

The Environmental Assessment Program, through environmental technology and remediation activities, will expedite the remediation of 64 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities subject to corrective action and selected by EPA pursuant to the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA), in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. The Program will ensure that 62% of the GPRA-listed facilities have remedies selected for the entire facility by FY 2013. Additionally, 50% of the GPRA-listed facilities will have their selected remedy completed or remedy construction completed for the entire facility by FY 2013.

**Strategies:**

- 4.1 Oversee and streamline the implementation of the RCRA Corrective Action Program.
- 4.2 Focus program resources and actions on GPRA-listed facilities.

- 4.3 Address immediate threats to human health and the environment and maximize actual environmental results by removal, treatment, or containment of contaminants.

### **Performance Indicator**

Outcome: Cumulative percentage of GPRA-listed facilities with remedies selected for the entire facility.

Number of GPRA-listed facilities with remedies selected for the entire facility.

Cumulative percentage of GPRA-listed facilities with remedy completed or remedy construction completed for the entire facility.

Number of GPRA-listed facilities with remedy completed or remedy construction completed for the entire facility.

### **Objective 5:**

The Environmental Assessment Program, through environmental technology, underground storage tank and remediation services activities, will direct the determination of the extent of both lateral and vertical contamination at sites with pollution by reviewing 80% of the soil and ground water investigation work plans received in FY 2008 and progressing each fiscal year so that 96% of the investigation work plans received in FY 2013 are reviewed in that fiscal year.

### **Strategies:**

- 5.1 Guide and direct the investigation of sites identified as contaminated in the State by reviewing investigation work plans.
- 5.2 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each work plan.
- 5.3 Inspect investigation activities periodically to assure that work is being performed in accordance with the approved work plan.
- 5.4 Select potentially contaminated sites from Remediation Services Division data and assess to determine the existence of soil and/or groundwater contamination, according to established divisional procedures.
- 5.5 Seek to return sites to active commerce through the Voluntary Remediation Program (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.5).
- 5.6 Guide and direct the corrective action (remediation) of contaminated sites by reviewing corrective action work plans.
- 5.7 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each work plan.
- 5.8 Inspect remediation activities periodically to assure that work is being performed in accordance with approved work plans.

- 5.9 Conduct comprehensive groundwater monitoring evaluations (CMEs) and operations and maintenance inspections (O&Ms).
- 5.10 Provide requisite RCRA data for appropriate EPA databases

**Performance Indicator**

- Output: Percent of soil and ground water investigation work plans reviewed.
- Output: Percent of soil and ground water corrective action work plans reviewed.
- Efficiency: Percent of corrective actions initiated within 60 days of approval of the corrective action workplan.

**Objective 6:**

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the water quality assessment activities, will ensure 50% of the source water areas of the targeted water systems in the state are protected by the Drinking Water Protection Program by the end of FY 2008-2013.

**Strategies:**

- 6.1 Prioritize drinking water systems by parish for inclusion in the Drinking Water Protection Program.
- 6.2 Form a local committee that will visit facilities in a drinking water protection area that could potentially contaminate drinking water in order to educate people on best management practices (BMPs) to prevent contamination.
- 6.3 Help the committee to get a parish-wide ordinance passed to prevent high risk facilities from locating too close to a public drinking water supply.
- 6.4 Help community water systems develop contingency plans to implement during emergencies.

**Performance Indicator:**

Outcome: Cumulative percentage of community water systems that could potentially be contaminated and affect drinking water that are protected.

**Objective 7:**

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the lab services activity, will provide timely, accurate, and cost effective analysis of 95% of the environmental samples collected by DEQ during July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013.

**Strategies:**

- 7.1 Maintain a high level of quality assurance on all analysis done by the laboratory services division.
- 7.2 Meet the analytical needs of the LDEQ by providing analytical data used for water quality standards, industrial compliance, baseline monitoring project for ground water monitoring, air toxic, ambient air, enforcement action and other special needs of the department.
- 7.3 Review all departmental contracts that have laboratory analysis to ensure that work done by commercial laboratories meets all requirements of the LDEQ Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program's (LELAP) regulations.
- 7.4 Ensure that all commercial analytical laboratories covered under the department regulations are accredited.

**Performance Indicator**

Outcome: Percent of analyses processed within specified holding times and meeting quality control requirements

**Objective 8:**

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the underground storage tanks activity, will protect the groundwater resources of the state through oversight and annual inspection of 15% of the underground storage tank facilities in accordance with UST federal and state regulations between July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013.

**Strategies:**

- 8.1 Perform compliance inspections of underground storage tank facilities to verify compliance with state and federal regulations.
- 8.2 Provide requisite compliance data for appropriate federal databases.
- 8.3 Provide information necessary to support enforcement actions where warranted.

**Performance Indicator**

Outcome: Percentage of registered underground storage tank sites inspected.